CLAIMS

1. A composition free of whole *Eimeria* parasites, which comprises one or more proteins, or fragments or variants thereof; wherein said proteins:

   (a) are present in the hydrophilic phase of a Triton X-114 extract of *Eimeria* sporozoites

   (b) have molecular masses of 26-30 kDa ± 5 kDa (i.e. 21-35 kDa) when determined by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said extract of *Eimeria* sporozoites is an extract of *E. tenella, E. acervulina, E. maxima, E. brunetti, E. necatrix or E. mitis* sporozoites.

3. A composition according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2,~~ wherein at least 50% w/w of proteinaceous material present is made up of one or more of said proteins, fragments and/or variants.

4. A composition according to any preceding claim wherein a plurality (e.g. two or three of said proteins, fragments or variants thereof are present).

5. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein only one of said proteins or fragments or variants thereof is present, e.g. in substantially pure form.

6. A nucleic acid molecule, which:

a) encodes a protein, variant or fragment thereof, as described in any of claims 1 to 5,

b) is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule as described in a),

or c) hybridises to a nucleic acid molecule as described in a) or b).

7. A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6, which is in ~~isolated or~~ recombinant form.

8. A vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~.

9. A non-avian host comprising a vector according to claim 8 or a nucleic acid according to claim 6 or claim 7.

10. A vector according to claim 8 or a host according to claim 9, which is adapted to express a protein, variant or fragment thereof as described in any of claims 1 to 5.

11. A pharmaceutically acceptable vaccine composition comprising a vector or host according to claim 10 (whether in live, killed or attenuated form).

12. A pharmaceutically acceptable composition according to any of claims 1 to 5 in the form of a vaccine.

13. A composition according to claim 11 or claim 12 wherein said vaccine comprises an adjuvant.

14. A composition according to claim 12 wherein the adjuvant is Quil A.

15. A composition according to any of claims 12 to 14, which is in unit dosage form.

16. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 5 or claims 11 to 15 for use in medicine.

17. The use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 5 in the preparation of a vaccine against an *Eimeria*-mediated disorder, e.g. against coccidiosis.

18. An antibody or a derivative thereof that binds with a protein, variant or fragment thereof as described in any of claims 1 to 5.

19. An immunological reagent comprising a protein, variant or fragment thereof as described in any of claims 1 to 5 bound to a support or provided with a detectable label.

20. An immunological reagent comprising a protein, variant or fragment thereof as disclosed in any of claims 1 to 5, which is bound to a support or provided with a labelling substance.

21. A test kit for the diagnosis of *Eimeria* infection comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 6 or claim 7; an antibody or derivative thereof according to claim 18; or an immunological reagent according to claim 19 or claim 20.